



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866

SEP 13 2004

216512



Mayor Alberto G. Santos
Town of Kearny
Town Hall
402 Kearny Avenue
Kearny, New Jersey 07032

Dear Mayor Santos:

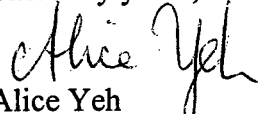
As you may know, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has formed a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), N.J. Department of Transportation (NJDOT) and N.J. Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) to conduct an integrated study of the Lower Passaic River. The study is being conducted under the Superfund program and the Water Resources Development Act. The study area consists of the 17-mile stretch of the Lower Passaic River and its tributaries from the Dundee Dam to Newark Bay. The objective of the study is to propose a plan to remediate contaminated sediments and restore habitats in and around the river.

To begin the integrated study, project team members will be collecting sediment, surface water, groundwater, and biota samples from the river and the surrounding embankment. Project team members will also conduct a number of geophysical and mapping surveys of the study area using research vessels.

Since your municipality is adjacent to the project study area within the Passaic watershed, I would like to inform you that in mid-September 2004, the project team will begin investigation activities that are expected to continue through the fall of 2006. Organizations that will be involved in these investigations include Malcolm Pirnie, Inc.; HydroQual, Inc.; Chesapeake Bay Biogeochemical Associates (CBA); Battelle; Rutgers University; Montclair University; TAMS, an Earth Tech company; EPA; USACE; and NJDOT. A project team coordinator from Malcolm Pirnie has called your office to inform you of this field investigation.

Additional information about the project can be found at www.ourpassaic.org. In the future, EPA will also be holding community briefing meetings; the dates and locations of these meetings will be determined as the investigation progresses. If you have any questions about the project or the work to be performed, please contact me at (212) 637-4427 or Lisa Szegedi, from Malcolm Pirnie, Inc., at (201) 398-4328.

Sincerely yours,


Alice Yeh
Project Manager